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BEANBAG GUNS

Police in Chicago See More Options With Less Firepower

BY WILLIAM RECKTENWALD
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICAGO — While law enforcement across the country is investing in more and more firepower to fight ever more heavily armed criminals, the Chicago Police Department is considering a new weapon:

Beanbags.

And net guns, and sticky foam, and a battery of nonlethal weaponry that once would have been more likely in a James Bond movie than on the streets of a large city.

Police in Chicago are turning toward a less-is-more philosophy, aimed at dealing with situations where heavy artillery is not the best option.

State law has forbidden law enforcement officers to fire any projectile — even one like a tiny pellet-filled beanbag, which can knock an offender over but will not penetrate the skin — unless there is an imminent danger to themselves or innocent bystanders.

Changing Rules: But a law taking effect Jan. 1 will make it possible for Illinois police departments to take advantage of the new technology.

It will allow local police to use several of the nonlethal weapons without meeting the imminent-danger standard, which remains in place for standard bullets and shotgun shells.

"We teach our police how to use a gun, but we don't arm them with the latest technology that is available," said Chicago Police Supt. Matt Rodriguez. "They have to make decisions that may affect their career and their life, and we want them to have all options available."

These days those options are many, as a glimpse through the U.S. Justice Department's National Law Enforcement Technology Center bulletin clearly shows.

There are those beanbag shells, little bags of bird shot blasted from shotguns at a speed of 320 feet per second, that will disable a person but not pierce the skin.

There is a launcher that fires a net to ensnare an attacking or fleeing felon.

There is restraining foam, a sticky, tacky, tenacious material — stored under pressure — that expands 30 times when sprayed and entangles a suspect in goop.

There is an "auto arrester" system that can stop a car by burning out critical electric components of the ignition system with a short blast of electric energy.

And there is a vehicle-tagging system that shoots a projectile containing a radio transmitter that sticks to a car with polymer adhesive, allowing police to track the car and avert dangerous chases.

Beanbags Make the Cut: Of those, only the beanbag projectiles are being given serious consideration by Chicago police.

They hope the projectiles will reduce injuries to police and suspects in situations where officers now must use their hands or their nightsticks.

"We want to ensure the safety of both the officers and the arrestee, and still get the job done," said Lt. Barbara Frost, who headed the group.

To some extent, that goes against the national trend.

"Nationwide, departments are getting more-lethal weapons," said Paul Jenkins, Chicago police spokesman. "They say, 'We need more firepower. We are saying we want to go the other way.'"

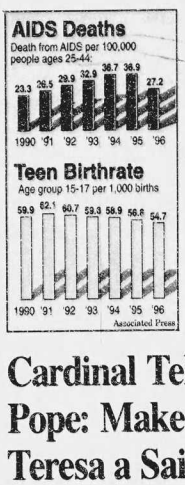
Not all of the nonlethal weapons will end up in Chicago squad cars. Though some look attractive in the catalog, they may not do the job on the street.

"After using that sticky goop, you still have to handcuff the guy," said John Doherty, a retired police captain and now an assistant professor of criminal justice at Marist College in New York.

"Some of the weapons are practical, but some are nonsense," he said. "A primary thing is to have training so police officers are as familiar with them as they are with their firearm."

Sgt. Frank Cascio agreed and said tools such as the flying net and sticky goop will not be on the department's shopping list until they prove their worth elsewhere.

"We are not going to be a testing ground," Cascio said. "We want people to come to us with a finished product."



U.S. AIDS Deaths Plummet

COMBINED NEWS SERVICES

AIDS no longer is the top killer of young U.S. adults. And overall, AIDS deaths fell 26 percent in 1996, the first sustained drop in 15 years, the government reported Thursday.

The encouraging AIDS news is part of a larger report on births and deaths that also confirms continuing declines in teen motherhood and infant deaths.

"The investments we have made in education and prevention programs are paying real dividends," said David Satcher, director of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which released the report.

The AIDS-death decline — foreshadowed by earlier reports covering part of 1996 — is particularly striking, health advocates agree.

The rate fell from 15.6 to 11.6 per 100,000 in one year, the first drop since the epidemic began.

In 1994, when AIDS took over the top spot, the rate was 36.7 in that age group.

But the good news is not evenly spread. AIDS remains the leading killer of black men and women ages 25 to 44.

"The good news does not mean that AIDS is over, and if we act like it is, it never will be," said Daniel Zingale, executive director of AIDS Action Council in Washington.

Also in the report:

- The teen birthrate fell 12 percent in 1996 to 54.7 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 19, down from a rate of 62.1 births per 1,000 in 1991. The rate dropped 14 percent among girls between 10 and 14.

The CDC reported earlier this year that fewer teens are having sex and that condom use is increasing.

"You have a whole stew pot of unconnected reasons," said Sarah Brown, director of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. "We have a re-energized advocacy community, the media, conservative leaders are talking about this. There seems to be a growing movement to protect young women."

- Infant deaths reached a new low of 7.2 per 1,000, due in part to a 15 percent decline in Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.
- Life expectancy reached a record high of 76.1 years.
- Homicides and suicides declined, but remained the second and third leading causes of death for people ages 15 to 24.

Cardinal Tells Pope: Make Teresa a Saint

COMBINED NEWS SERVICES

LOS ANGELES — in a rare appeal reflecting burgeoning popular sentiment, Cardinal Roger Mahony has directly urged Pope John Paul II to make Mother Teresa a saint by 2000.

The dramatic public exhortation by the Roman Catholic archbishop of Los Angeles came just hours after he faxed a letter to the Vatican calling for her canonization. While other leading bishops have said that Mother Teresa should be made a saint, none have gone as far as Mahony in calling for her elevation within three years.

"While for many of us in the church there is a process that must be gone through, yet for the poorest people of the world they've already finished the process. She is their saint!" Mahony declared. "And she is our saint, regardless of what it says in the book."

Canonizing Mother Teresa in three years would be unprecedented. It can take decades, even centuries, for an individual to be pronounced a saint.

Mahony's announcement surprised and delighted more than 1,000 of the faithful who gathered Wednesday night at St. Vincent Church in downtown Los Angeles for Southern California's largest trib-

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Victoria Calaguian/The Associated Press

FLOWERS FOR FERDINAND

Former Philippines first lady Imelda Marcos leads hundreds of supporters in offering flowers and singing a birthday song in front of a bust of her late husband, former President Ferdinand Marcos, in suburban San Juan on Thursday. Marcos was born in 1917 and died in Hawaii in 1989 after protests drove him into exile.

State Foresees Boom In Abuse of Elderly

BY TOM ZOELLNER
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

When an 89-year-old woman reportedly was found starving, dehydrated and lying in her own urine in her daughter's house in Sandy, state officials invoked a new Utah law and secured a court order to have her forcibly removed to a nursing home.

But the order was overturned by the Utah Supreme Court in July because officials neglected to write a waiver of the 24-hour notice usually given when the state takes custody of an incapacitated adult. The daughter, who denied any abuse, regained custody of her mother and has agreed to provide round-the-clock care for her mother.

The case is illustrative of the twists and turns surrounding an increasingly important — and relatively

See OFFICIALS, Page A-10

El Nino Watcher Expects Winter To Be Wetter, Warmer in Utah

BY MIKE GORRELL
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

Based on the maps, an unusually strong El Nino should not have a significant impact on Utah's weather this winter and on through the spring.

But Vern Kousky used to live here. He knows the regional storm patterns and how the mountains squeeze moisture from passing clouds.

And so Kousky, an El Nino expert from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), said Thursday that he would not be surprised if Utahns — particularly southern Utahns — talk next summer about what a wet winter and spring it was.

See EXPERT, Page A-8

■ Utah's stormy weather makes for 'a wild day' D-7

Army Study Reveals Rampant Sex Bias

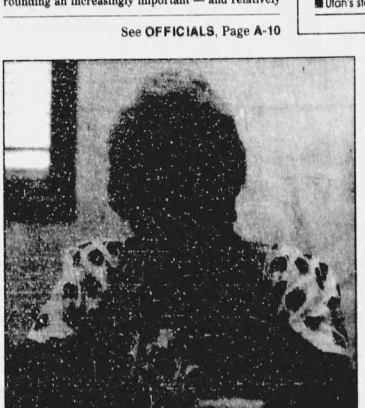
COMBINED NEWS SERVICES

WASHINGTON — The Army issued a searing indictment of itself Thursday, asserting that "sexual harassment exists throughout the Army, crossing gender, rank and racial lines." Sexual discrimination was found to be even more prevalent, and the service's rank and file "uniformly do not have trust and confidence in their leaders" on the issues, the study said.

The Army accused commanders of ignoring the problems and allowing inappropriate behavior to be "commonplace," contending leaders were more focused on combat deployments and cutbacks than taking care of the needs of their most vulnerable soldiers.

Major training program changes were announced at the Defense Department by Army Secretary Togo West and Gen. Dennis Reimer, the Army chief of staff.

See ARMY STUDY, Page A-8



Trent Nelson/The Salt Lake Tribune

Bernice Cesspooch is a member of the Ute Indian Tribe, which has decided to boycott businessos in Roosevelt.

Utes Use Pocketbooks in Fight With Roosevelt

BY SHAWN FOSTER
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

FORT DUCHESNE — Henry Cuch has seen the fight between the city of Roosevelt and the Ute tribal government before. And he has a solution.

"Both sides need to sit down and talk," said the 70-year-old Cuch, who has lived his life on the Uintah and Ouray Ute Reservation in northeastern Utah.

But there has not been much dialogue between the neighbors, who live only miles apart.

The latest salvo in the long history of conflict between the Ute Indian Tribe and the predominantly white city of Roosevelt came this week, when tribal leaders announced a boycott of Roosevelt businesses.

After a 22-year-long court battle, the dispute over the boundaries of the tribe's reservation seemed to be resolved earlier this summer.

A ruling handed down in May by the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver affirmed the tribe's jurisdiction over land historically owned by Indians: allotments made to American Indian families at the turn of the century and since sold, acreage given to mixed-blood Utes when their membership was terminated in 1954, and land traded away by the tribe to consolidate its property.

The decision also confirmed a 1992 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that removed "homestead" land — areas that were farmed by white settlers under the Homestead Act at the turn of the century — from the tribe's boundaries. Roosevelt and some of the surrounding areas fall under the homestead exemption.

Ute leaders are angry over Roosevelt's decision to ask a federal judge to implement the 10th Circuit Court's ruling. On Monday, U.S. District Judge Bruce Jenkins put into effect the Circuit Court ruling by allowing the city to charge sales tax and to prosecute tribal members charged with misdemeanors.

"Roosevelt is already homestead land; why did they need to go to a federal judge?" asked Ronald Wopsock, chairman of the governing tribal business committee. "Why couldn't they have waited? Why now?"

And Vice Chairman Roland McCook wants to know why city officials could not have given the tribe the courtesy of a phone call.

"We heard it on the radio and read it in the paper," McCook said. "We asked them to sit down and talk things out. At the very least, they could have come to the table and said, 'We're forced to do this.'"

Roosevelt City Manager Brad Hancock does not

See UTES, Page A-10

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Senate Gears Up for Road Battle

GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The battle lines over billions of dollars in transportation money became clearer Thursday with the unveiling of a Senate bill that would shift money from northeastern states to the South and West while remaining within the constraints of the balanced-budget deal.

After months of tough negotiations with colleagues, Sen. John Chafee, R-R.I., chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, unveiled a six-year $145 billion transportation bill. He formally introduces the legislation today.

"It hasn't been easy and there are still some difficult points out there," Chafee said at Thursday's news conference. "This isn't the final phase of the effort."

Two other top committee members, Sen. John Warner, R-Va., representing the southern point of view, and Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., representing the westerners, played a major role in the negotiations.

Many Southern states had complained they were not given their fair share of the transportation money pie under the current six-year transportation law, known as ISTEA, which is set to expire at the end of September.

Warner and Baucus, along with most of the eight other committee members backing the bill, joined Chafee on Thursday in a show of support.

But some committee northeasterners, including Sens. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J. — described by Chafee as "unhappy" about the bill — and Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., were absent.

The bill would hit hard at the traditionally generous funding given some northeastern states, although Chafee's home state of Rhode Island would do well.

Lautenberg threatened to "explore all options" to changing the bill, including new legislation, a one-year extension of the current law or a filibuster, if "major changes" weren't made.

"This legislation is simply unacceptable," Lautenberg said in a statement. "It puts us on the road to nowhere."

Chafee, a supporter of environmental programs, succeeded in retaining some major environmental components of the current ISTEA bill, including a congestion mitigation and air-quality program. He plans to take up the legislation, called the Intermodal Transportation Act of 1997, next week in his committee.

Chafee's bill not only angered some northeasterners but also put him on a collision course with Rep. Bud Shuster, R-Pa., chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Shuster's three-year bill, introduced last week, funds transportation programs at higher levels than Chafee's, and would spend in three years the money allocated under the five-year balanced budget agreement.

Both bills are designed to replace the $155 billion ISTEA law, officially known as the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991.

Chafee's committee does not have jurisdiction over all the programs in ISTEA. His bill represents an increase in spending over ISTEA levels for the programs under his jurisdiction, from $120 billion under ISTEA.

Reauthorization of ISTEA is proving contentious, in part because of the high funding levels in Shuster's $103.2 billion bill. An unabashed advocate of higher transportation spending, Shuster attempted earlier this year to include more transportation money in the balanced budget agreement. His amendment failed by two votes on the House floor.

The two congressional budget committee chairmen, Sens. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., and Rep. John Kasich, R-Ohio, criticized the funding levels in Shuster's bill at a Wednesday press conference where they were joined by representatives of the Concord Coalition and other groups supporting the balanced budget agreement.

But other groups have hailed Shuster's bill, and many of them think the additional money will become available from the transportation trust fund and future budget surpluses.

Officials Await Boom in Elderly Abuse

■ Continued from A-1

new — area of criminal law: abuse of the elderly.

Always vulnerable to con artists, quack doctors and cruel children, America's seniors are well-poised to become the victims of choice in the 21st century, state officials told a group of Utah judges at the Annual Judicial Conference at Snowbird on Thursday.

"Granny-bashing" will become prevalent because the elderly often lack the willpower or the wherewithal to see their tormentors investigated and prosecuted.

Only 1 in 20 cases of elderly abuse ever receive official attention, experts estimate. Even more troublesome is that the abusers and con artists — in as many as 59 percent of reported cases in Utah — are friends or relatives of the victim.

And the laws to cope with elderly abuse often are new, and sometimes unfamiliar to judges and prosecutors.

Utah's own criminal code protecting the elderly was passed only last year.

"In 2010, the first baby boomer turns 65, and at that time, this is going to be a huge area in the law and the courts," said Ron Stormberg of the Division of Aging and Adult Services in the Department of Human Services.

"It's new stuff. Each case we do will be breaking new ground," Stormberg said.

The American Bar Association has recommended that judges try to fast-track cases involving elderly abuse for fear victims could die before the case gets to court.

Some defense attorneys have tried to play this to their advantage, employing numerous delaying tactics in hopes elderly witnesses will die before they can testify, said an official at the conference.

Physical abuse of the elderly makes up only about 18 percent of the cases reported to the state Adult Protective Services, said Nancy Stallings of the state Human Services Department.

More common is neglect, in which seniors are left to themselves and are unable to care for themselves properly, said Stallings.

Unlike child-abuse investigators, Adult Protective Services officials lack the legal power to take custody of a person immediately. An emergency court order must be sought because the law assumes seniors — however old — have the right to live their lives free from interference.

State guardianship of the elderly is still rare: Officials estimate there are 30 to 40 seniors currently under custody in Utah.

Seniors also can be abused without anyone laying a finger on them.

Financial exploitation of older folks is an old story which is not likely to go away soon, particularly as wealthy baby boomers save for their retirement years.

"Criminals aren't that dumb," Stormberg said.

"They can figure out that's where all the wealth is."

Utes Fight City With Wallets

■ Continued from A-1

remember any invitation from the tribe to discuss issues.

"To my knowledge there has never been a request that has come to Roosevelt City in any way, shape or form," said Hancock. "But if there had been, why would we meet? What would it have accomplished?"

But some tribal members see it differently.

For years, many Utes have complained that Roosevelt police target Indians. Tribal members say they are pulled over for no reason, that they are treated roughly and always are suspect because they are American Indians.

"Too many times they have made examples of our tribal members," said Wopsock. "The message is, 'This is going to happen to you if you come into the city.'"

As a quasi-sovereign government, the tribe has jurisdiction over misdemeanor offenses committed by Utes on the reservation. While the boundary issue was being settled in federal court, Roosevelt police officers did not have authority to arrest tribal members in the city unless they committed a felony.

Tribal leaders say that if Indian law enforcement officers and courts no longer have power in Roosevelt, so be it. But, they argue, there at least should be some discussion about how to diffuse tension between Roosevelt police and tribal members.

As women from the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit gathered for their Thursday sewing session in nearby Randlett, they talked about what it is like to be an Indian visiting Roosevelt.

Courtney Chegup recalled an incident this summer when her friend was accused of shoplifting from a vendor at a Roosevelt-sponsored festival.

"There was a sign for sunglasses that said '$5,'" said 20-year-old Chegup. "My friend picked up a pair and went to pay for them, but they guy said, 'Those are $20.' Then when she got mad, he accused her of trying to steal them. When the police came, they believed the white guy."

Bernice Cesspooch, a 74-year-old member of the tribe, remembered when she was shopping in town with a friend and her grandson. When the toddler picked up a candy bar, the store owner picked up the phone and called the police.

"The grandma said, 'I'll pay the 50 cents,' but they called the police anyway," Cesspooch said. And the police came and questioned the grandmother.

But City Manager Hancock said discrimination is not a part of the city's 10-member police force.

"We are fair and equitable in everything we do," Hancock said. "We've always considered tribal members our friends. We welcome them. They come to the city and use our facilities. And even though they don't pay sales taxes to support ball fields and parks, we still welcome them."

Meantime, some Roosevelt businesses face the threat of losing up to a third of their customers.

"Since yesterday, I haven't seen many people from the tribe," said Rosie Turner, manager of Turner Lumber in Roosevelt. "It's definitely going to hurt. From customers in the tribe to accounts with tribal government, it's more than 30 percent of my business."

Hancock believes the tribe is going after the wrong people.

"A boycott of Roosevelt businesses is not going to hurt Roosevelt City government," Hancock said. "As far as Roosevelt City is concerned, it is business as usual."

Tribal leaders hope the boycott will encourage Roosevelt business leaders to pressure the city government to come to the table. But some white Roosevelt residents are not sure that a boycott is the right strategy.

"I lived here 10 years before I ever set foot on the reservation," said a Roosevelt resident who would not give her name. "Change will come, but it will only happen like it did for me — one heart at a time."

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